United Nations S/2001/716

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 July 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to address this letter to you in response to the provocative and slanderous comments that the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo made in his letter dated 13 July 2001 (S/2001/694) addressed to you.

1. The Democratic Republic of the Congo undermines the Lusaka Peace Agreement

The letter of the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo clearly reveals the delaying tactics of the Kinshasa Government, which is trying to use every possible means, including provocation, to sabotage the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Agreement.

Indeed, launching such a virulent attack on two of the signatories to the Lusaka Peace Agreement on the basis of delusions of secession, constitutes a deliberate attempt to thwart the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Agreement that we all signed voluntarily and, it should be recalled, as equal partners.

2. Congo-Kinshasa opposed to the Inter-Congolese dialogue

The letter of the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is but the tip of the iceberg. He accuses us of having a hidden agenda while in reality it is Congo-Kinshasa which has a hidden agenda, an agenda which excludes Congolese of the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who, according to Kinshasa, are not Congolese. In fact, it was the key issue of nationality that sparked the internal crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and that the authorities want to evade. The Kinshasa Government is extremely scared of addressing this issue face to face with the Congolese from the eastern part of the country. That is the truth. As the deadline laid down by the Lusaka Agreement for discussions on the question of nationality approaches, the Government of Kinshasa is becoming more irritated and is starting the game of provocation and insult against two signatories to the Lusaka Peace Agreement, one of which is supposed to participate in the Inter-Congolese dialogue.

Rwanda would like to clearly recall, once and for all, that it will not continue to tolerate the existence along its borders of people denied their right to nationality by their own country. The Democratic Republic of the Congo should stop burying its head in the sand and start assuming all its responsibilities in this regard so as to

01-46385 (E) 200701 200701

settle, once and for all, the issue of nationality which, apart from being a source of conflict and insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, also affects neighbouring countries such as Rwanda.

3. Congo-Kinshasa is against the spirit of the African Union

The delusions of secession and expansionism have caused the Kinshasa authorities to overlook the commitments of African heads of State, including their recent meeting in Lusaka, where they have just reaffirmed their unwavering desire to establish a strong African Union, which should lead to the outright abolition of borders between African States. The resort today by the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the reactionary tune of expansionism and secession constitutes a deliberate attempt to thwart the desire of African States for a union.

In conclusion, Rwanda requests the Security Council to approach the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to urge them to remain calm, to respect and implement all the provisions of the Lusaka Peace Agreement that they voluntarily signed with their partners, including the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie and the Republic of Rwanda.

Since the letter to which we are responding has been published and circulated to all Member States as a document of the Security Council, ours should also be given similar treatment.

(*Signed*) Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative